

National Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING

The response of Mid-Atlantic Region (NY, NJ, and Penna) members to a preliminary questionnaire has spurred the planning of a regional convention at New York May 3 and 4.

Helen Feeney, Regional Chairman, announces the following program:

Fri., May 3, at Carroll Club

2:30 - Registration

3 - Intercollegiate Debate on "The Best Play of the Season", and annual event sponsored by Mrs. Wyatt at the Carroll Club.

4:30 - Tea-Reception for contestants, judges, and guests.

7:30 - Registration

7:45 - Round Table Discussion of Playwriting with panel of speakers including playwrights, teacher of playwriting, and a theatrical agent

Sat., May 4

10:30 - Symposium on Radio and short radio programs produced by Conference members.

12:30 - Luncheon at the Carroll Club introducing representatives of Conference groups and individual members

It is possible that the Saturday morning session may be held at the radio studio of a broadcasting station. Final program announcements will be released by Miss

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TIME LIMIT EXTENDED

The closing date for entries in the Bishop Sheil Drama Award contest is extended to July 1, 1946. The Award will be announced as soon as possible after Sept. 1, 1946.

Much as we dislike postponements, the time extension is in this case well justified, and from the number of inquiries received at headquarters since its announcement it is a welcome respite. Bishop Sheil's direct appeal to the colleges to make a writing project of the Award is largely responsible for the postponement. A sincere attempt on the part of a college student to write and rewrite after hearing the criticism of his fellow classmen is a lengthy process and it would have been impossible for the colleges to cooperate within the May 1st limit.

To those playwrights who have completed scripts we urgently plead: do not delay sending us your scripts if they are finished. The machinery for judging will function most smoothly if we can receive the majority of scripts in May.

An experimental production is no bar to an Award entry according to official interpretation of "new play." "Provided that it be unpublished and the sole property of its author, and provided that it be reasonably new, a play will not be declared ineligible for the Bishop Sheil Drama Award in virtue of a local try-out or in virtue of an experimental production which aided in the writing or effective rewriting of the script." Not included in this class, however, are scripts produced by Department of Drama, Catholic University, and Blackfriars' Guild-New York.

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING
(cont. from P. 1)

Feehey shortly together with a request for your reservations. The schedule is intentionally light to leave you time for a Radio City Tour, Saturday matinee theatre party, and whatever you wish to do in New York.

Members are urged to invite non-member friends to attend that the work of the Conference may spread, but in accord with constitutional provision non-members will pay a registration fee in advance of that charged members. Because of temporary shortages, those attending the convention are urged to make their own reservations for hotel accommodations and Saturday matinee tickets early. It is currently impossible for Conference headquarters or Miss Feehey to undertake these tasks much as both should like to extend the hospitality to visitors. Miss Feehey will have available a limited supply of tickets to visit radio and television studios.

Every effort is being made to obtain speakers who will be of genuine help to the Conference audience, for it is hoped that this - the first gathering of Catholic Theatre enthusiasts in New York since 1941 - will point the way to regular regional meetings in the East.

WRITING FOR RADIO?

Radio script writers will find encouragement in the Elaine Carington Contest for Script Writers. Application may be obtained by writing Mrs. Elaine Carington, P.O. Box 140, N.Y. 18, N.Y.

Twelve weekly awards of \$200 each are made for 30-minute dramatic programs, which are produced Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. by WOR, Mutual. Closing date of the Contest is May 9, 1946. The best script of the 13-week contest period will receive an additional \$500 prize.

FOR CANADIAN MEMBERS

Samuel French has agreed to extend the special royalty reductions formerly allowed by its New York Office to NCTC group members, to those Canadian member groups who would buy cast copies and pay royalties through French's Toronto office. The same preliminary certification of NCTC group membership will be required.

SAINT GENESIUS - NCTC PATRON

St. Genesius is the patron chosen by vote of Conference members, and soon a symbol of his patronage will appear on Conference stationery and literature.

Of Saint Genesius of Rome, the BOOK OF SAINTS compiled by Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate, says: "A comedian at Rome who, while mimicking the Christian ceremony of baptism was miraculously converted and thereupon put to the torture and beheaded sometime in the reign of Diocletian." His feastday is August 25.

SUBSCRIPTION PERIOD

NCTC has one membership period (July 1 to June 30 of the following year) because 1) a year's membership from actual date of registration is beyond our bookkeeping powers unless the secretary-treasurer is to do nothing but book-keep and remind members of renewal due dates; 2) the June expiration date gives us a month at a comparatively low ebb of other Conference mail to handle renewals (members have until August 1 to renew without penalty of lapsed membership and repayment of initiation fee). Note for college and school groups: if your treasury is closed during the summer you should renew your Conference membership before the end of the school year. Payment of 1946-1947 dues will be accepted any time from April 1 to August 1.

To adjust the inequalities of registration late in the season, those subscriptions of new members which are received on and after April 1 will become effective for Conference service immediately and will be dated to expire June 30, 1947. Past issues of this season's Production Calendar, however, will not be supplied on such memberships. If members enrolling now wish to receive the current season's Calendars, their memberships will be dated for the 1945-46 season and will expire June 30, 1946. You can help us by explaining the situation to your friends.

Will you also please make clear to those whom you attempt to interest in the Conference that we cannot service the requests of non-members. To endeavor to help all those deserving without regard to membership would nullify our pledge of service to you whose subscriptions make NCTC possible. As membership grows and projects multiply present limitations are keenly realized.

REGISTERING COPYRIGHTS FOR PLAYS

Inquiries lead us often to research. Usually we can be more certain of the answers we find than in the case of the copyright law which employs terms without definition. But to the best of our understanding these are the requirements:

1-Dramas reproduced in copies for sale:

a-Written by an American author

- 1) Print and publish the work with notice of copyright ("Copyright, Name of Copyright Proprietor, Year in which Copyright Secured by Publication") on title page or page immediately following.
- 2) Promptly thereafter, in order to register copyright claim, send 2 complete copies of best edition to Library of Congress, Copyright Office, Washington, D. C.
- 3) Send registration fee (money order not check or cash) for \$2 with application form D-1 to Register of Copyrights, Washington, D. C.

b-Written by foreign author, published in foreign country -

- 1) as above
- 2) send 1 copy, otherwise as above
- 3) use form D-1-Foreign, otherwise as above.

2-If drama is not to be reproduced in copies for sale, send 1 complete typewritten copy with application for registration and fee of \$1. Use form D-2.

If drama is later reproduced in copies for sale, follow 1-a above.

If drama is intended to be reproduced for sale at a later date, this duplicate registration may be avoided by deferring registration until after publication. Protection against infringement until such time is secured under Sec. 2 of Copyright Act (Mar 4, 1909): "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to annul or limit the right of the author or proprietor of an unpublished work, at common law or in equity, to prevent the copying, publication, or use of such unpublished work without his consent, and to obtain damages therefor."

Dramatico-musical compositions may be registered in the same manner as dramatic compositions. For published, use Form D-3; for compositions not reproduced for sale, use form D-4. Text and music must be deposited.

Application forms are supplied by the Copyright Office on request.

Mailing: Copies of works sent to be registered may be mailed to the Copyright Office free (Sec. 14) if delivered directly for that purpose to the Postmaster, who will attach his frank label. Your money order is not entitled to free postal transmission, and this with application form should be forwarded separately in an envelope addressed to: Register of Copyrights, etc.

Titles: Present copyright law does not provide for registration of the title of a dramatic composition for the purpose of securing exclusive right to use such title.

Radio: Copyrights for dramatic compositions for radio may be obtained by depositing 1 copy with money order for \$1, application form D-2. Each complete episode or program requires separate registration.

Motion Picture scenarios and synopsis may not be registered under the designation "dramatic compositions."

Herbert Howell in THE COPYRIGHT LAW (Washington, 1942, Bureau of National Affairs) warns: there is no machinery to correct errors on applications. Be sure of your information. From Mr. Howell's book we gleaned these postscripts:

"Printed" in the case of literary or dramatic work includes all modern methods of multiplying a work in copies - mimeographing, photographing, typewriting, etc.

"Date of Publication" is the day copies of first authorized edition are either placed on sale or sold or publicly distributed, not the date copies may have been privately distributed by the author among friends or editors for sole purpose of criticism or comment in advance of offering work for public consumption.

The term "publication" has no fixed meaning; it means one thing for published works and another for copyrighted works of which no copies are reproduced for sale. In the latter case, the date of deposit serves as date of publication.

The public performance of a dramatic work is not considered publication.

The first term of a copyright runs 28 years from date of original publication. Its proprietor must apply for renewal within 1 year prior to expiration of the original term.

REVISIONS

Mrs. C. B. Mirick, after viewing Catholic Theatre of Detroit's production of STORM writes: "The script is a full 15 pages too long and scene changes switch back and forth too frequently within acts." Mrs. Mirick asks that we inform those who have read or at present are considering STORM for production of her wish to re-edit manuscript copies. We are sending all library copies to her for correction at this time. The revised scripts will be available for loans by the end of April. Sister Alicette of Regis College, Weston, is planning a production which will employ projected scenery.

GHEON FUND

The first donation to the Gheon Fund (cf. Oct. Calendar) has come from New Rochelle's Props and Paint in the form of royalty payment for production of THE MARVELOUS HISTORY OF ST. BERNARD.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

To promote cultural interest in Irish drama the Springfield Little Theatre Player's, Inc. established a traditional guest night on March 17. Father Driscoll directed RIDERS TO THE SEA, and Father Kearn, a native of Ireland, coached the keeners. Synge's SHADOW OF THE GLEN was directed by Father O'Connor of Springfield CYO. (Mother Alphonse, O.S.U., sponsor of the Players, enthusiastically reports 20 current members of Delta Psi Omega, honorary dramatic society.)

Cue and Curtain Players at Immaculata College, Penna., also offered an evening of one-act plays March 17, two originals.

BROADWAY COMMENTS

By Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

ANTIGONE - Its suspense is largely historical as an underground challenge to the Nazis. Played extraordinarily well by Miss Cornell and Sir Cedric Hardwicke it by no means reaches the Sophoclean heights. Candida is soon to be produced on alternate nights.

HE WHO GETS SLAPPED - One of the very best productions of the Theatre Guild. Half-fairy tale, half-melodrama, with a perfect cast headed by Dennis King.

MID-WEST PLAY FESTIVAL

Father Schroeder reported 10 entrants in the Mid-West Play Festival registered by Mid-March. The Festival sponsored jointly by Loras Academy and Mid-West Region of NCTC will be held at Dubuque May 3, 4, and 5.

MARGIN NOTES

Sixth Anniversary of the Catholic Theatre of Detroit was celebrated March 10 with High Mass and Communion Breakfast.

St. Teresa Academy Thespians presented George Kelly's FINDER'S KEEPERS March 9, and again March 23 for the Illinois State Dramatic Festival.

Queene's Companye of St. Joseph College, West Hartford, supplied several patrons for HAMLET, ANTIGONE, LUTE SONG, and GLASS MENAGERIE during vacation week in mid-March. Sister Maria Ancilla, director, visited New York too and discussed plans for the development of NCTC in the New England Region of which she is Chairman. With THE UPPER ROOM scheduled for March 29 production at the College, no time was lost in getting back to work after the New York holiday.

MARY OF SCOTLAND was produced by Acadram, Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Phila., on Mar. 24-25, with a 15-year old in the title role.

Rev. Gerald Kernan, S.J., desperate for musical comedy material for men's groups is writing his own to be produced by Cap and Bells of St. Joseph's College Philadelphia, in May.

The Quarterly Journal of Speech, Feb. 1946, contains more than the usual amount of interesting and valuable material for Speech and Drama Depts of high schools and colleges. Here are a few of the articles: Units in Acting and Stage Make-Up for Secondary Schools, outgrowth of National HS Institute held at Northwestern U last summer; Why Not Begin at the Beginning, a plea for the teaching of speech skills rather than Radio Workshop courses in high schools; Dramatic Arts in Secondary Education, in which Ernest Bavelry urges a program adequate for today's educational and cultural needs; Speech in Teacher Education, a survey of Speech programs in teachers colleges; and the first of three articles offering a precis of Julius Bab's Critique of the Theatre; Essay in Systematic Dramaturgy.

CROSS-COUNTRY CIRCUIT - APRIL

Cincinnati - WHITE IRIS, WILL O' THE WISP ANTI-CLOCKWISE, and SO WONDERFUL (IN WHITE) will compete in the interclass one act play contest Apr. 9 at Our Lady of Cincinnati College. Edgecliff Players will direct the all-student productions. JUNIOR MISS is scheduled for end of April performance by lower classmen Players.

Davenport - SHUBERT ALLEY has been chosen the Senior Class Play to be presented at Immaculate Conception Academy Apr. 28 and 29.

Detroit - The return of over 40 of its 83 Service members has made possible Catholic Theatre of Detroit's resumption of Father Hannick's THE PASSION PLAY. Seven performances are scheduled Apr. 13 -- 17. Paul Lilly, once more full-time Business Manager of CTD is finding spare time to direct Detroit's traditional Lenten drama.

Dubuque - Loras College Players produce QUEEN ESTHER, Father Donohue's poetic drama in two acts, on Apr. 7.

East St. Louis - THE GONDOLIERS will be played by two casts from St. Teresa Academy working on alternate nights Apr. 22 to 28. Star players from both casts will be seen the evening of Apr. 26 and at the matinee Apr. 27.

Immaculata, Pa. - Sophomores carry the production of Cue and Curtain Players' annual Lenten drama from an unpublished script by Sister Mary Donatus, Director.

Joliet - Little Theatre of College of St. Francis notes two one-act plays, THE GOLDEN AGE and THE MUSICAL CLOCK, with an interpretation of Stephen Foster's melodies in music, verse choir, and dance on the April schedule. The Children's Theatre will present SEVEN LITTLE REBELS. Better Speech Week, Apr. 8--12, is to be celebrated with radio programs, speeches, and plays.

Los Angeles - Les Jongleurs of Immaculate Heart College obtained a release on the screen play THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE and are at work on their adaptation. Director Joseph Rice reports plans to stage it on several levels.

- Los Angeles Theatre Unit has scheduled STAGE DOOR for workshop production the last week of April.

Mt. St. Joseph, O. - Freshman members of Mount Players will produce three one-acts, MY COUSIN FROM SWEDEN, THE GHOST OF A FRESHMAN, and HOW THE STORY GREW, on Apr. 10 at College of Mt. St. Joseph.

New Haven - Campus Theatre Players of Albertus Magnus offer THE UPPER ROOM Apr. 13, 14 and 15. Production directed by Mrs. May Hocking.

New York - Dramatic Guild, Xavier High School, offers an original drama WITH CROOKED LINES on Apr. 4, 5 and 6.

- Blackfriars' Guild continues MARY OF MAGDALA through Apr. 16, playing every evening except Wednesday.

- The Queens Passion Play, ON THE ROAD TO CALVARY, which enlists two casts from several parishes in the Borough, is presented Friday nights and Sunday afternoons throughout Lent at Queen of Peace Auditorium, Kew Gardens Hills. Father Eugene Nolan, author of the play, is moderator of Queen of Peace Players, Conference member unit.

Pittsburgh - Catholic Theatre Guild of Pittsburgh offers SIMON'S WIFE Apr. 10, 11 and 12.

Racine - St. Catherine's Players stage SIMON PETER the week of April 8. The production will have original music, a verse choir from the high school, and a men's singing choir enlisting the best talent in the city.

Richmond - At the Mosque on Apr. 14, Catholic Theatre Guild presents its PASSION PLAY written by Father O'Kane. Another performance scheduled at Raleigh on Apr. 7 in the City Auditorium.

Salina - Marymount Players have accepted an invitation from the Women's Club to give an hour's play-reading adaptation of WATCH ON THE RHINE.

Whiting - BEHOLD THE MAN, Father Lord's Passion Play with modern application, has been chosen by St. John Drama Club for presentation Apr. 7.

Wichita - Fifth Annual Meeting of the Wichita Diocesan Unit of NTC will convene April 26-27-28. In addition to Conference members from Wichita Diocese, representatives from Salina and St. Marys will attend. Father Schroeder, Loras College, will lead the round table discussion. The Masquettes of Sacred Heart College, Wichita, will present JO'S BOYS Apr. 26 and will sponsor the play festival Apr. 27-28. The meeting will close with a banquet Apr. 28.

- Mt. Carmel Academy Genesians offer SEVEN SISTERS Apr. 2. Senior dramatic recitals at the Academy are scheduled for April 25.

